

Date: AUG 17 1964

Russ Defectors Pass Through Anchorage On Way To Europe

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Pair Kept in Seclusion At Airport During Stop

On orders from a CIA agent accompanying them, two Soviet defectors were kept in seclusion during an hour and 15-minute refueling stop in Anchorage yesterday.

Newspaper, radio and television reporters were denied permission to interview the Russians and airport personnel were ordered not to identify the defectors to the newsmen when leaving and boarding the airliner.

The two men had requested asylum this weekend at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. They were members of the Bolshoi Variety troupe now performing in Japan.

IN A NEWS conference given before boarding the SAS air-

liner in Tokyo, the men were identified as Boris Midney, 27, a drummer, and Igor Berecshia, 31, a bass fiddle player.

They said they had planned the defection for a long time because art is politically guided in the Soviet Union.

"It is impossible to go on living in Russia only on the pro-

se things will get better some time," they said.

IT IS BELIEVED the two musicians will be taken to a refugee camp in West Germany where they can apply for entry into the United States, if they desire.

The airliner, bound for Copenhagen, Denmark, landed at Anchorage International Airport about 9:45 a.m. The defectors were hustled across the apron into the immigration area and then into an office.

One airport worker who talk-

ed to the CIA agent accompanying the two told reporters the agent said if he was photographed, it could mean his life. It was all right for the two men to be photographed, the airport worker was told. But he was apparently under orders not to identify the men to the newsmen.

Before leaving Tokyo, the defectors reportedly told Japanese officials they did not want to return to Russia or speak with representatives from the Soviet Embassy in Tokyo.

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FIRST LEAD DEFECTORS

TOKYO, MONDAY, AUG. 17 (AP)-TWO DEFECTING RUSSIAN MUSICIANS EN ROUTE TO WEST GERMANY AFTER SEEKING ASYLUM AT THE U.S. EMBASSY HERE ARE TRAVELING ON "AFFIDAVITS OF IDENTITY" AND NOT ON AMERICAN PASSPORTS, THE EMBASSY SAID TODAY.

THE PAIR, WHO SAID BEFORE LEAVING TOKYO LAST NIGHT, "IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO GO ON LIVING IN RUSSIA ONLY ON THE PROMISE THAT THINGS WILL BE BETTER SOME TIME," MADE A STOPOVER AT ANCHORAGE, ALASKA. THEIR SCANDINAVIAN AIRLINES PLANE ALSO WAS DUE TO STOP AT COPENHAGEN.

THEY ASKED FOR ASYLUM SATURDAY.

JAPANESE NATIONAL POLICE AUTHORITIES SAID THE TWO YOUNG RUSSIANS WERE TRAVELING ON AMERICAN PASSPORTS WHEN THEY FLEW OUT OF TOKYO. UKSAT THAT TIME,

(MORE)

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TOKYO-FIRST LEAD DEFECTORS (A168) XX X X SATURDAY.

JAPANESE NATIONAL POLICE AUTHORITIES SAID THE TWO YOUNG RUSSIANS WERE TRAVELING ON AMERICAN PASSPORTS WHEN THEY FLEW OUT OF TOKYO.

AT THAT TIME, THE U.S. EMBASSY REFUSED TO EITHER CONFIRM OR DENY THAT IT HAD SUPPLIED THE RUSSIANS WITH AMERICAN PASSPORTS.

MONDAY, AN EMBASSY SPOKESMAN SAID THE RUSSIANS WERE TRAVELING ON "AFFIDAVITS OF IDENTITY, SWORN TO BEFORE AN AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICER, WITH AN AMERICAN TRANSIT VISA AND A VALIDATION OF ENTRY FROM THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY."

THE AMERICAN TRANSIT VISA PERMITTED DRUMMER BORIS MIDNEY, 27, AND BASSIST IGOR BERECSHIIS, 31, TO PASS THROUGH ANCHORAGE.

THE VALIDATION OF ENTRY, SECURED FROM THE WEST GERMAN EMBASSY IN TOKYO, PERMITS THEM TO ENTER WEST GERMANY.

ONCE IN WEST GERMANY, AN EMBASSY SOURCE SAID, THE TWO CAN EITHER CHANGE THEIR MIND AND RETURN TO RUSSIA OR CAN ENTER A REFUGEE CAMP AND APPLY FOR ADMISSION TO THE UNITED STATES OR SOME OTHER COUNTRY.

A U.S. EMBASSY SOURCE HAD EMPHASIZED EARLIER THAT THE TWO HAD NOT BEEN GRANTED ASYLUM.

THE PAIR TOLD JAPANESE OFFICIALS THEY DID NOT WANT TO RETURN TO RUSSIA, DID NOT WANT TO TALK TO SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICIALS IN TOKYO AND WERE MAKING THE DECISION TO FLY TO WEST GERMANY OF THEIR OWN FREE WILL.

AT ANCHORAGE THE RUSSIANS REMAINED IN SECLUSION DURING A 1 HOUR AND 15 MINUTE REFUELING STOP. THEY WERE ACCOMPANIED BY A MAN DESCRIBED BY IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS AS A U.S. CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY ESCORT. THE THREE REFUSED TO SPEAK WITH NEWSPERSON OR ALLOW THEIR PICTURES TO BE TAKEN.

THE TWO RUSSIANS HAD BEEN MEMBERS OF A MUSICAL TROUP TOURING JAPAN. SIX CARLOADS OF JAPANESE POLICE ESCORTED THEM TO TOKYO AIRPORT. AT THE AIRPORT, JAPANESE POLICE TOLD THE TWO RUSSIANS THAT THEY WERE NOT TO BE RELEASED TO THE PRESS.

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